

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## CHANGES AND PROGRESS

### Board Meeting of the AJR

More than 70 delegates from London and the Provinces attended the AJR Board Meeting, held on January 25 at Hannah Karminski House. In opening the meeting, the chairman, Mr. W. M. Behr, O.B.E. first paid tribute to the memory of those friends whom we had lost during the past year: Mr. F. W. Ury, whose active co-operation and wise counsel as member of the AJR Executive and the Management Committee for the Homes and as chairman of the House Committee of Leo Baeck House as well as, for several years, also of Osmond House, will be sadly missed. Equally, we mourn the death of our revered friend, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, a member of the AJR Board since its inception, who had rendered signal services to the AJR by visiting the Homes on Friday evenings and addressing the AJR Club on Jewish festivals. The chairman also gratefully remembered Mr. S. Adler-Rudel, who died recently in Jerusalem, and who, prior to his re-emigration was a member of the AJR Executive.

Mr. Behr extended a special welcome to new Board members, Mr. A. Lieberman, Dr. L. Nelken and Mrs. Ruth Schneider.

The chairman's introductory remarks were followed by a statement of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, in which he made the board members acquainted with the new administrative arrangements concerning the senior officials of the AJR and the future relationship with Self Aid, whose offices were going to be transferred to Fairfax Mansions. (The details of the arrangements were announced in the previous issue of "AJR Information"—The Ed.)

In his general report, Dr. W. Rosenstock stated that the AJR had now been in existence for 35 years, a period which is usually considered as the span of one generation. The timing of the personal changes was, therefore, symbolical.

Turning to the work for the Homes, the speaker mentioned several recent incidents, in which applicants, who had asked to be put on the waiting list many years ago, had postponed the request for their admission for such a long time that, due to the deterioration of their physical and mental condition, they were no longer eligible. He stressed that it would be in the interest of the candidates themselves to ask for the consideration of their admission as long as they were still in a fairly good state of health and could be properly looked after by the staff and also establish bonds of friendship with their fellow residents. Once residents were admitted they would be kept under the care of one of the Homes, with the exception of those, whose condition deteriorated to such an extent that, for no fault of their own, they became a disturbance to the other residents. On the other hand, none of the Homes could

provide the services of a nursing home or a hospital.

When the Homes were erected, many of our people were still very badly off, because restitution and compensation payments had not yet materialised, and in their majority they had to live in furnished rooms or other modest premises. At that time, 20 years ago, people were happy when the amenities of a Home could be made available to them, and they even took their chance if it meant sharing a room with another resident. All this has changed meanwhile and it is only natural that, under the circumstances, the number of applicants had receded. This is also in keeping with the general trends of the recent years, according to which elderly people want to retain their independence as long as possible. Taking all these circumstances into account, the closure of Otto Hirsch House in Kew, which, partly also due to its location, had been under-occupied for a considerable time, was a step in the right direction. The period between the announcement of the closure to the residents and their transfer to one of the other Homes was kept as short as possible in order to spare them undue worries. Meanwhile all of them have settled down well in the Homes to which they have been transferred.

#### Need for Homes Continues

The need for the remaining three ordinary Homes (Otto Schiff House, Leo Baeck House and Heinrich Stahl House) as well as for Osmond House for those who need a higher degree of care and attention, will persist for a considerable time to come. The majority of our people came to this country in 1939, and those among them who were older than 25 to 30 years of age and who are now in their sixties will still require accommodation among people of their own background when they can no longer look after themselves.

Parallel to the care for the residents of the Old Age Homes and the Flatlet Home (Eleanor Rathbone House) runs the responsibility for those who live on their own. In this respect, the Meals-on-Wheels Service has gained increasing importance. On behalf of Mrs. R. Anderman, who is in charge of the scheme but who, due to absence abroad, was unable to attend the meeting, the speaker reported that the Service now provided 700-800 meals per month. A short while ago, a branch was opened at Eleanor Rathbone House, where at the expense of the AJR Charitable Trust a deep freeze had been installed in which, at weekly intervals, meals for the residents are stored. This scheme has proved a very great success. There are also close personal contacts between the voluntary helpers who deliver the meals and the recipients, and a recent party between those at the delivering and those at the receiving end proved a great success.

In its relationship with other quarters, the AJR has retained and even strengthened its standing. The various successes in the field of taxation, which we owe in the first place to the expert co-operation of our friend, Dr. F. E. Falk, were last but not least due to the fact that the AJR has established for itself the reputation of a reliable organisation, which only puts forward demands if they can be based on sound arguments. Equally, we are in close contact with all major Anglo-Jewish organisations as well as with welfare authorities, hospitals and non-denominational organisations.

Conversely, other organisations and institutions of various kinds built up by former refugees regard the AJR as the representative body of our community. Therefore, quite a few of their leading members are also members of the AJR Board, which thus provides the widest platform of the community.

Turning to questions of finances and organisation, the speaker stated that, as far as can be seen before the accounts of the past year have been audited, it appears that, as compared with 1974, there has been an increase of income by 15 per cent, but an increase of expenditure (mainly due to rises of postage and printing costs over which we have no control) of about 30 per cent. He expressed the hope that, as in previous years, members would voluntarily adjust their payments to the risen costs. As far as the membership movement is concerned, there were about 200 losses during the past year, which represent five per cent of the total membership. Whilst this is mainly due to the age structure of our community, it was particularly encouraging that these losses could be made up by 200 new enrolments, an indication of the appreciation of our welfare activities and of our monthly "AJR Information".

#### Tax Concessions Achieved

After the General Report, Dr. F. E. Falk, dealing with the AJR's activities in the field of taxation, referred to the substantial Treasury Concession—mentioned in his report last year and also in "AJR Information"—in exempting from U.K. tax, by amendment of the Finance Act 1974, one half of German and Austrian Social Insurance Pensions and of German Public Servants' Pensions, paid to Nazi victims under special provisions of German or Austrian law. As a result of further representation made and an interview with Mr. Joel Barnett, M.P., Chief Secretary to the Treasury—arranged by the always helpful M.P.s Geoffrey Finsberg and Greville Janner—Mr. Barnett, a sympathetic and understanding Minister, announced in Parliament last July that foreign invalidity social insurance pensions, which corresponded to tax-exempt British payments of the same kind, would by "Extra Statutory Concession" be similarly tax-exempt from the year 1974/5 onwards. (The details were announced in the September 1975 issue of "AJR Information"—The Ed.)

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## CHANGES AND PROGRESS

Continued from page 1

The concession has recently been published in the official list of 1975 concessions under No. 1.A31. Extra-Statutory Concessions do not have the force of law, but the Inland Revenue feel bound by them.

As a result of a further memorandum on Austrian pensions, largely drafted by Dr. C. I. Kapralik, the Treasury made another substantial concession in accepting that pensions paid to former Austrian public servants, dismissed by the Nazis, should qualify for the 50 per cent exemption given in the Finance Act 1974 as these pensions were paid "under Governmental arrangements amounting to a special provision of Austrian law". A strong plea that similar relief should also be given for Austrian private pensions paid to Nazi victims was, however, rejected.

The speaker also reported that interest on compensation payments under the German "Lastenausgleichsgesetz" which accrues at four per cent per annum as from January 1, 1953, onwards would not be subjected to U.K. tax (cf., October 1975 issue of "AJR Information"—The Ed.)—the result of a long battle with the Inland Revenue who first sought to tax the interest.

In summing up, Dr. Falk stated our work in securing fair taxation for payments made to Nazi victims seemed now to be completed. This work started in 1955 and a clause benefiting pensions paid to public servants was included in the Finance Act 1956. Endeavours over many years to obtain complete tax exemption for compensation annuities paid under the German Federal Compensation Acts of 1953 and 1956 were crowned by success by full and retrospective effect back to 1953, in the Finance Act 1961. The 1974 legislation and the matters referred to in the present report to the Board completed the picture.

The benefits of the restitution and compensation legislation—secured to a large extent by Dr. W. Breslauer and the late Dr. F. Goldschmidt and Dr. H. Reichmann—were thus greatly increased, making a substantial difference to the living standards of many persecutees. This highlighted the importance and effectiveness of the efforts of a Refugee organisation such as the AJR in promoting tax legislation and treatment fair and appropriate to the Nazi victims.

Mrs. M. Casson (head of the Social Services Department and the AJR Employment Agency) reported that during the year under review there had been an increase of callers who require moral support to cope with their personal difficulties. The AJR Employment Agency could supply 140 home helpers in cases of need, but the number of requests had gone down recently. As far as clerical work was concerned, 13 people could be put in employment, including two who are now

doing secretarial work with Members of Parliament.

Mrs. Margaret Jacoby (Chairman of the AJR Club) first recalled the history of the Club which now celebrates its 20th birthday. (A report on the birthday celebration is published in another part of this issue—The Ed.). Apart from the regular informal gatherings each week from Sunday to Thursday, a number of functions had been arranged during the year, including Seder Evenings (conducted by Rabbi Dr. Salzberger and Dr. Arnold Horwell), a Chanukah celebration (the last occasion at which Dr. Salzberger addressed the Club), talks, and slide shows. Last year's Bring and Buy Sale had yielded £643, but this substantial result had even been exceeded at this year's Sale, which took place one week before the Board Meeting and at which more than £800 was raised. The proceeds are used in aid of the Gertrud Schachne Fund, the Margaret Jacoby Fund and the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel. There was also an outing to Hever Castle, under the guidance of Mrs. Eva Woodman; the costs were defrayed out of a legacy left to the Club by a deceased member. Mrs. Jacoby extended her special thanks to all those who rendered their voluntary help in running the Club.

The last speaker, Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer, gave a progress report on the History of Immigration Scheme, launched under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany. On the occasion of the last Council Meeting in London in October 1975, a symposium was held at which papers were read by those who worked on the scheme in France (Mrs. R. Fabian), Israel (Mr. H. Gerling), U.S.A. (Prof. H. Strauss) and Britain (Mrs. Pottlitzer). As far as her own research in Britain was concerned, Mrs. Pottlitzer reported that she had almost completed her interviewing work and would now, among other things, concentrate on the history of the various organisations built up by Jews from the Continent. It was hoped that the final versions of the papers, read by the participants at the symposium, would be ready by October 1976 and, possibly with some further contributions, used for publication in one volume.

### Lively Discussion

The discussion was opened by Mr. L. Spiro, member of the Executive who stressed the importance of the numerous activities of the AJR and appealed to all members for their help in retaining the organisation's strength by making friends of theirs, who still stood aside, join the AJR.

In the lively debate which followed, a number of important questions were raised by Dr. Laura Stein, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mr. Julius Strauss, Mrs. Eva

Trent and Dr. A. Horwell. Some of the speakers called for a thorough investigation of the requirements in the field of housing and, among other things, pleaded for the provision of sheltered accommodation in districts more easily accessible than Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate. The question was also raised whether, subject to necessary legal arrangements with the authorities concerned, a special wing of Osmond House could be allocated to people who required more intense nursing and who would otherwise have to be put into geriatric units, unless they had the means to go into private nursing homes. Other speakers expressed the view that the age limit of 70 years for admission to the Flatlet Home (Eleanor Rathbone House) was too low. In the opinion of one speaker, the reluctance of people to go into one of the residential homes was in some cases due to the fact that, as opposed to several recently erected buildings, the Homes did not provide private w.c.s, and asked whether it was financially and architecturally possible to adapt at least some of the rooms to these new standards. It was also pointed out that the contact between the Executive and the Board was not close enough; this should be remedied by special news bulletins to Board members. Another questioner wanted to know more details about the future relationship between the AJR and Self Aid.

In their replies, members of the Executive and of the senior staff promised that all questions raised during the debate would be gone into.

With regard to the possibility of erecting further flatlets, one of the difficulties arose from the prohibitive building costs. In reply to one questioner, Board members were assured that the social workers kept constant contact with those applicants who, for one reason or another, could not yet be admitted or wished to have their applications deferred. As far as the possibility of issuing special circulars for the Board members was concerned, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, stated that most relevant news about the activities were published in "AJR Information" but that the editor would certainly do his best to allocate more space to this aspect; he also promised that the matter would be given further consideration by the Executive. Lastly, he stated that Mrs. Tausig would continue to be Secretary of Self Aid and that both organisations, though soon working under the same roof, would remain separate entities. He thanked all those who had contributed to the debate and also expressed the gratitude to all Board members for their interest and to the staff for their devoted services. The Meeting was closed by the Chairman, Mr. W. M. Behr.

W.R.

### YOUNG NEO-NAZIS AT WORK

In Freiburg, several young members of *Kampfgruppe Prien*, a para-military organisation, were arrested for daubing swastikas on the newly dedicated memorial to victims of Nazi persecution, painting public buildings with Nazi slogans and distributing Nazi leaflets.

In Munich, members of the new *Volksozialistische Bewegung Deutschlands* admitted laying a wreath—later removed by the police—in front of the *Feldherrnhalle*, the site of Hitler's abortive coup of November 1923, with the inscription: "Ihr werdet doch siegen"—you will yet be victorious.

In Bruchsal, Baden, a new youth organisation of the radical Right, *Vereinigung verfassungstreuer Jugend* has been formed to include members of at least three other extremist organisations active in the district.

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## HOME NEWS

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

## CONTROVERSIAL ACTION OF ZIONIST FEDERATION

The Zionist Federation expressed its "appreciation" to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan for Britain's abstention in the UN Security Council on the participation of the PLO in the council's proceedings. This step met with angry reactions from the Board of Deputies and leading Zionists. The letter to Mr. Callaghan was initiated by the Federation's chairman, Mr. Eric Moonman, MP, and contained as signatories the names of the president Lord Janner, who was in Israel at the time, the deputy chairman, Mr. A. Kramer and the general secretary, Mr. Sidney Shipton. At a meeting of the Board of Deputies, Mr. Michael Fidler, chairman of its foreign affairs committee, expressed his astonishment that such an appreciation should come from the Zionist Federation.

## NATIONAL FRONT TO FIGHT EDELMAN'S SEAT

The National Front has announced that it will contest the forthcoming by-elections at Coventry North-West—the Labour seat held by the late Maurice Edelman—and Carshalton which Mr Robert Carr, the former Conservative Home Secretary held before he was made a life peer.

## UNIVERSITY DONS THREATENED BY BOYCOTT

Dr. Geoffrey Alderman, lecturer in British Government at London University's Royal Holloway College, drew attention to the position of Jewish academics and non-Jews married to Jewish academics who are in danger of being discriminated against in exchange agreements between British universities and Arab institutions. The Council accepted a resolution against any possible discrimination by foreign academic institutions, but refused to refer specifically to Arab universities.

## GERALD KAUFMAN'S LOYALTIES

At a Poale Zion meeting at Leeds, Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, said that Zionists should stress what had been achieved in building up Israel rather than her military achievements. As a Socialist Zionist he said, that Poale Zion should proclaim its support for basic Zionist ideals.

## EXPENSIVE PHONE CALLS TO ISRAEL

In answer to a number of enquiries, the Post Office has explained that the high cost of telephoning Israel from Britain is due to the charges imposed by the Israeli telecommunication authorities. For £1 a person in the UK can speak to Israel for 57 seconds, to neighbouring Cyprus for 2 minutes 12 seconds and to America and Canada for 1 minute 20 seconds. Israel has been placed on band five, the highest rate, alongside such countries as Australia. Mr. Haberfeld, the director of Israel's telephone network, has confirmed this and added that Israel's telephone links with the outside world were principally by submarine cables which were more expensive to lay and maintain than land cables. Political considerations in the Middle East made land cables to Europe impossible.

## MAJOR CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sir Mark Henig and Yehudi Menuhin are among the patrons of "Europe Cantat", the major European choral festival which for the first time will be held this year (from July 30 to August 8) in Leicestershire. President of the Festival is the Duke of Gloucester. Marks & Spencer are among the sponsors. Israel will be sending at least one choir and the Kibbutzim Chamber Orchestra.

## JEWISH BODIES BOYCOTT UN EVENT

Thirteen Jewish organisations affiliated to the United Nations Association of Great Britain announced their joint boycott of all activities connected with the UN decade "to combat racism and racial discrimination". They said that Jewish individuals and organisations had always been involved in the fight against all forms of these twin evils and therefore viewed with horror attempts to convert this UN event into a political tool to be used against Zionism. They would be unable to participate until UN resolution 3379, equating Zionism with racism, was rescinded. The organisations involved are: the Anglo-Jewish Association, B'nai B'rith, the Federation of Synagogues, The League of Jewish Women, Mapam, Mizrahi, the Pioneer Women, Poale Zion, the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, Womens Guilds, the Zionist Federation and several others.

## COMPLAINT AGAINST SCHOOL "QUOTA"

Mr. and Mrs. H. Brull of Cockfosters whose eight-year-old son was refused admission to the Lochinver House preparatory school in Potters Bar on the ground that the "non-Christian quota" was already taken up, have complained to the Race Relations Board. The parents had applied for their son's entry and paid a deposit three years ago, but were only recently informed of the refusal. Lochinver House is a fee-paying private day school. Mr. Armitage, the headmaster, explained that the quota had been introduced by the board of governors a few months ago because "they wished the school to remain predominantly Christian in its intake". At present Jewish pupils represented 17 per cent of the roll, with another three per cent Hindu and Moslem. The governors would like the ratio of non-Christian pupils to be rather less than at present.

## DEATH OF A JUDGE

Sir Frank Milton who from 1967 until July 1975 was Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, has died at the age of 70. He was the son of banker George Lowenstein who emigrated to this country from Germany as a young man and became a director of S. Japhet and Co. Ltd. He changed his name when he unsuccessfully contested South Islington as a Liberal parliamentary candidate in 1930. In the last war, he served in the Royal Artillery as a major.

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## Shelter for Russians

At the Annual General Meeting of the "Jews Temporary Shelter" which moved from the East End to Willesden three years ago, Mr. John Goldman, joint hon. secretary, said that the number of night-lodgings provided during 1974-75 had totalled 5,000. Immigrants from Russia and Australia had been helped and had made use of the far greater comforts of the new building which had single and double rooms instead of the former dormitories. The total number of individuals admitted, apart from those already here, was estimated at 90 in 1974-75.

## Women in Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Rabbi John D. Rayner, senior minister of the St. John's Wood Liberal Synagogue, recommended to the synagogue council that women who want to wear a tallit during a service, should be allowed to do so. He pointed out that the practice has begun to establish itself in a number of Progressive and even Conservative synagogues in Israel and in the diaspora. There should, however, be no compulsion to wear a tallit and this also applied to men who were free to be "called up" without a tallit if they objected to wearing one. The council has invited members to express their views on the subject, and also to state whether they thought women should have to wear some form of head covering when "called up".

## Lady Chain praises ORT

Lady Chain, wife of Nobel Prize winner Sir Ernst Chain, was installed as president of the British Women's ORT at a reception held at the Royal Institution. An eminent biochemist and educationist, she succeeds Mrs Minnie Wingate who has moved abroad. Mr Max Braude, director-general of the World ORT Union, welcomed the new president and said that in the age of Concorde, the ORT family was coming closer together. Lady Chain said she was a great believer in the kind of education provided by ORT. "The pupils are confident that the training they receive, will enable them to make a living and contribute to society".

## Anti-Zionism at Jewish School?

Four sixth-formers at the Hasmonean Grammar School for Boys, Hendon, have alleged in a letter to the Bnei Akiva journal that there is an anti-Zionist prejudice among the teaching staff and that pro-Israel posters have been defaced. A poster which proclaimed "We are all Zionists" had been torn down from the Israel Society notice board and a swastika with the words "Nazi Israel" had been put up in its place. The headmaster, Mr Stanton, denied claims that teachers were unwilling to associate with the Israel Society for fear of upsetting anti-Zionist colleagues. The young pupil responsible for the "Nazi Israel" incident had been severely disciplined. The vast majority of the 640 pupils were pro-Zionist.

## Jewish Students Support Palestinians

The Union of Jewish Students in Manchester approved a resolution in support of the Palestinian claim for a sovereign state. Subsequently Mr Joseph Klarman, the head of Youth Aliyah and a right-wing Knesset member, called on the Israeli Youth and Hechaluz department of the World Zionist executive to cut financial contributions to the Union. The head of the department, Mr Bar-On replied that such an extreme reaction was unjustified and that the resolution in question was only one among many in support of Israel. Mr Yosef Almogi, the new chairman of the World Zionist executive, intervened saying that the position of the students was unacceptable but that he did not want to discuss the matter any further.

Israel's Labour Zionist Movement decided not to support a proposal to cut financial contributions to the Union, but this should not imply that the World Zionist executive supported the union's position.



# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Government sues firm over boycott

The American Justice Department filed a suit in San Francisco district court accusing the Bechtel Corporation, one of America's biggest building firms and four subsidiary companies of conspiring to boycott individuals and companies blacklisted by Arab countries.

### Secret contacts with PLO denied

The American State Department denied that it had been secretly communicating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but admitted that people who called at the Department with messages from the PLO had been received. Professor Norton Mezvinsky of the Central Connecticut State College, a member of a Zionist family with relatives in Israel, announced that he had served as an emissary of the State Department in talks with senior PLO representatives. He added that he was associated with the Israel League for Human and Civic Rights.

### ARAB DRIVE IN SOUTH AMERICA

Nearly 1,000 delegates from the American Continent attended the second Pan American Arab Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In a resolution, they demanded the recognition of the PLO as part of the moves to end the Middle East conflict. The congress, after acclaiming the United Nations resolution against Zionism, agreed to establish a Pan American Arab development bank for investments in Latin America and to open a Pan American Arab cultural institution in Argentina as well as an information headquarters in Venezuela.

### STATE CARE FOR ORTHODOX JEWS IN HOLLAND

The Dutch Government is about to open a 70-bed hospital wing in the Nicolaus-Tulp-Hospital at Amstelveen near Amsterdam which will cater for orthodox Jews. The medical director of the hospital and a senior nurse flew to Israel to study arrangements in the Jerusalem Shaare Zedek Hospital which has been conducted according to strict orthodox law since its foundation in 1902.

### NEWS FROM THE EAST Sculptor allowed to leave

The sculptor Ernst Neistwestny, 50, was granted permission to leave for Israel. Two previous applications for an exit visa had been refused and Neistwestny had subsequently been excluded from the Artists' Union. One of his severest critics had been Kruschev, but after his death the artist was commissioned by the family to provide a monumental memorial on his grave in the Novodievitshi VIP cemetery in Moscow.

### Appeal from Italian Communists

Italy's Communist Jewish Senator Umberto Terracini sent a message to the Soviet Government calling for the release of Jews and members of other nationalities suffering in Soviet camps and prisons for their ideas and beliefs. The appeal followed a meeting of scientists and scholars in Milan to discuss "freedom of thought and scientific activities for Jews in the Soviet Union" under the chairmanship of the Minister of Culture, Mr. Giovanni Spadolini.

### Rabbinical Students to go to the US

Five young Soviet Jews will be allowed to study for the rabbinate in the United States. An American inter-faith foundation will pay for their tuition fees and living expenses amounting to about £5,000 a year for each student. Rabbi Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, said that he and Father Donald Campion, a Jesuit priest in Rome, had negotiated the agreement.

## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### CHARTER TRIPS TO ISRAEL?

The Zionist Federation is investigating the possibility of organising charter flights from Britain to Cyprus with connecting boat ferries to Haifa, as El Al airlines continue in their refusal to permit charter flights to Israel. Mr George Garai, the Federation's public relations officer, explained that the Federation was doing everything to ensure that the maximum number of people participated in what the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Itzhak Rabin, had called "the year of pilgrimage to Israel" in 1976. Efforts were also being made to persuade people not to take holidays in countries which had voted for the UN resolution on Zionism, but this was difficult because of the high cost of holidays in Israel.

### NO VISAS NEEDED FOR YOUNG GERMANS

West German citizens, born after 1927, will no longer require visas to enter Israel. In the past, the Israeli authorities insisted on visas being obtained by visitors from Germany in order to be able to exclude people known to have been active Nazis.

### GROUP CAPTAIN BADER AT JERUSALEM BARMITZVAH

Group Captain Douglas Bader, the legless hero of the Battle of Britain, and Paddy Bathrop, another Battle hero, were among the guests who attended the barmitzvah of Robert Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Miller, of London, at the Jerusalem Western Wall. Mr. Miller, hotelier and businessman, chartered an aircraft to fly his family and friends to Jerusalem. The Rev. Simon Hass, of the Central Synagogue, where Mr. Miller is a past warden, conducted the service together with Rabbi Menahem Cohen.

### WORLD ASSEMBLY OF JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN

250 ex-Servicemen from the U.S., 55 men and women from Britain and Veterans from Poland and Russia were among the visitors to the first World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans in Jerusalem. The Ajax delegation included Sir Israel Brodie, Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Lieut.-Col. M. Lipton, MP, and several other leading members. They joined members of the Royal British Legion at ceremonies in the Beersheba British war cemetery and in Tel Aviv.

### BEDUIN OFFICERS

Jumaya el-Hawashli, a 20-year-old Negev Beduin, has become the first Beduin to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Israeli Army. Two Beduins from Galilee have since been promoted, too. Beduins are not liable to conscription, but many volunteer, serving mainly as trackers and guides, pursuits in which they excel.

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## PALESTINIAN COMMUNISTS BACK JEWISH STATE

The underground Palestine Communist organisation on the West Bank, an offshoot of the outlawed Jordanian Communist Party, has made a demand to the PLO to drop its plan for a secular state and adopt a more "realistic and logical" approach based on a division of the area and recognition of Israel. Israel recently released nine active members of the underground group from "administrative detention".

### PRO-ARAB GROUP ESTABLISHED

A group which calls itself "Israeli Council for Israel-Palestine Peace" was established in Tel Aviv. Its honorary president is Mr. Eliahu Eliachar, a veteran Sephardi leader and member of the 1948 Knesset. Mr. Matityahu Peled, a general in the Army reserve and former quartermaster-general who is now a military historian, became the group's acting chairman. The council supports the idea of an independent Palestine State and negotiations with any authorised Palestinian group that is prepared to recognise the State of Israel. Another founding member of the group is Mr. Arye Eliav, a former secretary-general of the Israel Labour Party.

### SHEIKH YAMANI A JEW?

A Yemenite brother and sister who came to Israel in 1951 claim that Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, is their long-lost brother. The couple, Masud Khala and Khadia Mahatzri, saw scenes from the Vienna kidnapping on the TV screen and say they recognised their brother who as an intelligent and good-looking boy of 16 had been persuaded by members of the Saudi royal household to become a muslim and serve their court.

### FIRST WOMAN COURT PRESIDENT

Judge Miriam Ben-Porat became Israel's first woman district court president. She arrived in Palestine from Poland in 1936 at the age of 18 and took her law degree at the Hebrew University. She is married with a daughter and has been a member of the Jerusalem district court for 17 years.

### DAY NURSERY SPONSORED BY MIZRACHI WOMEN

Lady Brodie, the wife of the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, laid the foundation stone for a day nursery on the outskirts of Netanya which is to be named in honour of Mrs Amelie Jakobovits, wife of the present chief rabbi. Funds for the nursery will be provided by the British Mizrahi Women's organisation.

### SUCCESS OF FOOD FAIR

420 foreign buyers attended Israel's Food Week in Tel Aviv which was the most successful yet reported. 89 buyers came from the U.S., 85 from Britain, 81 from West Germany, others came from France, Sweden, Iran, Belgium, Australia, Holland, South Africa and Canada. A number of visitors offered to organise Israeli food displays in their own countries. Israel's recent agreement with the EEC will benefit her export of fruit, vegetables, bakery goods, sweets, chocolates and wine because of the lower import tariffs.

### JUNG EXHIBITION IN JERUSALEM

With reference to the report on the Jung Exhibition published in our January issue we have been asked to mention that the Exhibition contained a small collection of paintings by children suffering from leukemia etc. as an expression of their personalities, with commentaries by Susan R. Bach (London); like a large selection from her collection, exhibited in Zurich some time ago, it found special attention.



Egon Larsen

## MORE ABOUT HITLER

Do we, does the British reading public still want to know more about Hitler—what he thought and said and did, and how he blundered towards his Wagnerian end? To be sure, the question of how he managed to usurp the leadership of the German nation is still important because it may have a bearing on the future of Central Europe. But once he had got to the top, his antics and rantings, his actions and reactions are perhaps no more interesting, politically and psychologically, than those of any other murderous maniac. Still, there seems to be a new German generation of readers who want to know more and more about Hitler: an interest which cannot be dismissed as morbid curiosity, but could be a healthy attempt at understanding the unbelievable. Or nostalgia?

Two new books may serve either purpose—though it may be debatable whether they are of real value to the historian. That worthy establishment, the Munich *Institut für Zeitgeschichte*, got hold of the diaries of a Major Gerhard Engel, Hitler's adjutant from 1938 until 1943 (after the catastrophe of Stalin-grad), now a retired gentleman of 70 who co-operated readily with the Institute, permitting them to publish his notes and have them edited and commented upon by Frau Hildegard von Kotze (*Heeresadjutant bei Hitler*, Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 1974 DM 16.80). The paperback volume of only 160 pages contains much for the anecdotically-minded, but little of historical importance as yet unrevealed. Engel was supposed to be the "ear" of the military leaders who wanted to be informed about Hitler's intentions as a strategist. His diaries record the growing mistrust between the professional soldiers and the reckless amateur during the war; however, much of the book consists of Hitler's utterances—sometimes rather puerile—on politics and on his favourite subjects, the motor-car and motor-ways.

His murderous plans towards the Jews are foreshadowed in a remark he made in 1938: that the Nuremberg race laws had, "on second thoughts", been too lenient. Then again he said that he had eliminated the Jewish artists from German life not because they were "different from the rest" but because they produced "bad art, due to their racial mentality", their *Hang zur Zersetzung*. He tolerated Weiss Ferdl and Claire Waldoff.

Engel reports on a dinner party at Frau Wagner's in 1939. Apart from Hitler there were "the ubiquitous Lady Mitford, who is a niece of Churchill's, and her sister Frau Mosley". The chances of fascism in England were discussed: "That was music in the ears of the Führer". Lady Mitford was convinced that England could not fight a war, considering her poor state of armament. "We soldiers", adds Engel, "are not sure what role Lady M. is playing. Is she a spy, a show-off, or really a fanatic follower of Hitler?" In 1940, when she killed herself, Hitler thought that she had lost her nerve, just at a time when he could have made real use of her because of her influential relations.

Another interesting topic of Hitler's conversations was, in 1941, Göring's intention of prosecuting Streicher, against whom he had collected a mass of evidence: corruption, theft of gold, scandals involving ballet girls at the Nuremberg opera, confiscation of farms for his own benefit. Hitler decided against a public prosecution because of Streicher's "merits in his fight against Jewry".

437 pages about Hitler's end in his bunker under the *Reichskanzlei* may seem an all-too-generous allocation of space for a historical chapter which has already been written several times. And even if the latest book on the matter (James P. O'Donnell and Uwe Bahnsen: *Die Katakomben—Das Ende in der Reichskanzlei*, Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 1975 DM 38) were able to tell the reader anything new—so what, one may ask. But there is nothing new, only the known facts in greater detail. The German-American team of authors, both journalists, spent over two years, we are told, on their research, interviewing everybody still alive who had anything at all to do with the bunker: generals and politicians, doctors and adjutants, orderlies and nurses, switchboard operators and waiters, drivers and mechanics.

The result is certainly a detailed account of everything the authors were told—too detailed, one feels, for they seem to have been unable to cut even the most irrelevant descriptions, stringing it all together in the still popular German tabloid style. Events happen at a certain minute, the weather is described, the size of bullets given in millimetres, conversations recorded word by word. All this may be true, but it creates the impression of pseudo-*vérité*, made up to impress the German reader used to sensationalist newspaper series.

German reviewers have expressed some concern that this kind of *reportage* about the Nazi period might create an atmosphere of pity for the murderers who, in the end, executed themselves; there is indeed little reason for going over the same chapter of history, the twilight of the Nazi era, again and again. One only wonders why German publishers believe they can find enough buyers for such books. Who are the readers? And who, one may ask, are the readers—and listeners!—prepared to pay DM 39.80 for a 700-page book with a 30-cm LP record now being offered by Munich's leading mail order bookshop, under the explicit title: "*Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer*"?

### A GHETTO CHRONICLE

In our October, 1975 issue, we published an article by C. C. Aronsfeld "New Perspectives of the Past". Subsequently a reader drew our attention to a book which has recently appeared in Poland which throws new light on some points raised in that article, and gave as a summary of its contents.—(The Editor.)

*The Chronicle of the Lodz Ghetto* by Danutta Dabrowska and Lucjan Dobroszycki quotes the daily camp bulletins giving figures of people who were evacuated "ausgesiedelt"—a well-known euphemism for "despatched to the gas-chambers." During the seven months from May to November 1942, 40,446 persons were evacuated. Of the 600,000 people in the Warsaw Ghetto, only 30,000 were alive in September 1942. In November 1942, a typhus epidemic broke out in the Lodz Ghetto, caused by unhygienic conditions and water pollution. More than 1,000 people died. Medical help was scarce, because people tried to conceal their illness in order to escape extermination. There was a shortage of medical supplies, too.

The book contains the reproduction of an announcement in German and Hebrew which says: "Evacuation continues. Persons called

up for evacuation should arrive very punctually at the place of assembly, otherwise their belongings will have to be left behind." The announcement is signed by Ch. Rumkovsky, Elder of the Litzmannstadt (Lodz) Jews. A police regulation threatens with evacuation anybody who uses gas or electricity for lighting between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Another Order forbids walking in the streets. Again, the penalty for contravening the Order is evacuation.

Our correspondent, herself a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto, adds: "This book gives a true account of what happened. I myself arrived in Lodz from Prague in October 1941. We were 5,000 men and women on this transport. One hundred and twenty-three of us survived. At the same time there were 20,000 people who came from Germany in the camp, and a similarly small number of them stayed alive. We worked in *ressorts* (workers' groups) from 7.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. with one hour's break. We received one loaf of bread which had to last for six and eventually seven days, and a daily bowl of soup. I remember a time when 25,000 pairs of shoes had to be sorted. They had belonged to people who were gassed. We had to work on Yom Kippur, but we received a slightly better soup on that day. I was in the camp from 1941 to 1944 and I am sure that there was no Allied bomb attack on the camp, as alleged in the article."

Our correspondent objects to a statement in Mr. Aronsfeld's article which says that there were no gas chambers in the camps in Germany or German controlled territory. This is due to a misunderstanding, because in the context "German controlled territory" means the Western countries over-run by the Nazis. We know that 6 millions died in the extermination camps in the East, i.e. in the *General-gouvernement* which was not "German-controlled", but a new administrative concept which went far beyond mere "control".

Hans I. Bach

### UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Following the example of Franz Rosenzweig's *Lehrhaus* in Frankfurt, Dr. Goldschmidt founded in 1951 the Institute of Jewish Education in Zürich which also admits Christian students. Among his books, in particular "The Legacy of German Jewry" (3rd ed., 1965) and "The Message of Judaism" (2nd ed., 1964) have become well known. He has also been very active as a lecturer.

The present book\* continues his work on the understanding between Christians and Jews. Dr. Goldschmidt sees the best chance of their meeting in the symbol of an ellipse which, with its two focal points, allows for mutual complementing while leaving differences without any attempt at eliminating them or glossing them over.

The Meditations, evidently collecting a number of his talks, contemplate passages from the Bible, the prophets and the Psalms as well as from the Gospel. They are well supported by quotations from Baeck, Buber, Rosenzweig, Freud, Einstein and also from Jacob Burckhardt, Bert Brecht, Nicolai Hartmann's "Ethics"; even Mohammed is referred to. Further chapters include one on Violence, "Never again Masada!" discuss the principles guiding the Zürich Institute, give homely viewpoints for a communal pilgrimage to Israel and announce a forthcoming book by the author, on "Freedom for Opposition".

The documentation of Dr. Goldschmidt's work for Judaism, unostentatious as it is, shows his learning, skill and human warmth. Our thanks are due to him for his sustained endeavour.

\* Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, *Well wir Brüder sind. Biblische Besinnung für Juden und Christen*. With an Introduction by Klaus Hemmerle. Stuttgart (Katholisches Bibelwerk) 1975. 199 pp. DM 24.



Robert Weltsch

## REMINISCENCES OF A HISTORIAN OF LAW

Apart from his great oeuvre of scholarly works, especially in the field of Jurisprudence, medieval legal and intellectual history and, last but not least, Jewish history (all these including deciphering and editing of old manuscripts), Guido Kisch, the author of this remarkable autobiography\* is an indefatigable recorder of reminiscences which he has been keeping with great precision relying on memory and authentic sources, sometimes interpreted in a subjective manner. He has produced a large number of essays of this kind, scattered in monographs, books, periodicals, Festschriften and so on. He is also a loyal family man who has written not only a Biography of his own father, the rabbi and Austrian army chaplain Alexander Kisch (1848-1917) to whom in 1899 in the course of an audience the Emperor Franz Joseph expressed an unequivocal condemnation of anti-semitism as an abominable barbarity, but only recently also published a comprehensive monograph on his clan, covering a period of 400 years and containing many names of men known in the world of science, medicine and art, beyond the author's own country of origin\*\*.

A branch of the family became established in England and India; Zionists remember Brigadier Frederick Kisch whom Weizmann in 1923 enlisted as head of the political department of the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem and who, alas, fell at El Alamein in 1942. There were also branches in Holland and in South Africa. The author's brother, Bruno Kisch (1890-1966) who from 1925 onwards was a prominent professor of Physiology at Cologne University and wrote many important medical works, also emigrated to America. He, too, wrote a brilliant book of memoirs *Wanderungen und Wandlungen, die Geschichte eines Arztes im zwanzigsten Jahrhundert* (Köln 1966), which in many respects is a supplementary source of information.

### Guido Kisch's Spectacular Career

Guido Kisch had a spectacular career as professor at various German universities, Leipzig, Königsberg, Halle, Prague, before he had to emigrate to the United States when the Nazi hordes swept Central and Western Europe. He now lives in well deserved ease in Basle as a respected member of this old and famous university though still very active and alert. Startling evidence of his vigour of mind at 87 is this autobiography which shows his command of an immense literature, special and general, his stupendous memory and the undiminished lucidity of his writing. This book is, of course, primarily the unfolding of personal experiences and achievements, but inevitably it also reflects the turbulent character of the epoch: two world wars, dismemberment of the author's native country (the Hapsburg monarchy), several revolutions, the Nazi catastrophe, the Holocaust and the thorny road of emigration with its tribulations and disappointments. Yet, above all, it shows the stamina of the author who—almost undisturbed—clung to his faith and to the values of conscientious scholarship which are the guiding principles of his life.

Indeed, the word "scholarly"—or *wissenschaftlich*—is his favourite adjective which

recurs in this book more often than any other; he has an unmistakable contempt for amateurism, he despises treating serious affairs of learning from the point of view of bureaucratic considerations or public relations—an attitude he sometimes encountered in America as an emigrant struggling for an adequate position. In such cases he does not conceal his resentment and sometimes the description of his disappointment sounds almost satirical. Perhaps this was not always caused by plain unfriendliness or inhumanity of his counterpart, but, at least partly, by the absurd objective situation into which even men of high rank were pushed by the unprecedented calamity for which only very few men in the Western world (including Jews) had—indeed could have—a correct comprehension. These tragic facts are a paradoxical concomitant of human shortcomings and of a situation in which men in their helplessness not always behave in an ideal way. This, of course, is no excuse, as we are told by Professor Kisch often in an outspoken way.

Although disgusted by the unreceptivity of some men of the Jewish establishment, Kisch found his way under the difficult circumstances of post-depression America. Through Salo Baron he was recommended to Stephen Wise's Institute of Religion and became its lecturer on Jewish history. He also had opportunity for scholarly work, editing old manuscripts (e.g., the Pseudo-Philo *Liber Antiquitarum Biblicarum* of the Goodhart collection), and he even could carry out his praiseworthy project to create a substitute for the Jewish historical periodicals which had perished in Germany. Without finding much outside support and without even primitive technical expedients, relying on an old typewriter rescued from Europe and on the typing skill of his wife, he founded *Historia Judaica* which he edited from 1938 through 1961 and

which gradually acquired some reputable collaborators. His concluding Epilogue at the closing-down of this publication, frankly describing its intention, its accomplishments and also its shortcomings, is reprinted in full in the original English text as an appendix to this otherwise German-language fascinating book.

In a short review it is impossible to give a full account of all the multifarious absorbing details contained in this book, of the many interesting people, scholars and others, who came across the author's way, of his learned endeavours and his published works. Noteworthy are his relations to German-speaking and Czechoslovak emigrants in America which also resulted in literary products like *In Search of Freedom*, a history of prominent American Jews of Czechoslovak origin, to which Jan Masaryk wrote a foreword. In addition to many treatises on the legal status of Jews in medieval Germany Kisch also compiled the comprehensive history of the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary (442 pp. Tübingen 1963).

After the war he resumed his contacts with the Old World. His first engagement in 1949 was a series of lectures at the Swedish university of Lund, subsequently he lectured in Holland, in Vienna, in London (in 1954 under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress), at many German universities and at the Monumenta Judaica Exhibition in Cologne. In 1952, a kind destiny had led him to Basle and he was invited to give the memorial lecture for Johannes Sicharius, a member of the circle of Basle humanists in the sixteenth century. After several regular guest professorships he was appointed on his seventieth birthday in 1959 an honorary professor at Basle and moved his residence from America to this Swiss city. There his main subject was "Humanism and Jurisprudence", with great essays on great Humanists like Erasmus, Zasius, Reuchlin, Melanchthon. The culmination of his career was the celebration of his eightieth birthday ten years later; the speeches delivered on that occasion at the university are also printed in the appendix. So are speeches at the presentation of the Great Medallion of Honour by the Czechoslovak Ambassador (1969) on behalf of Prague University, Kisch's Alma Mater; and at the bestowal of the Jacob Burckhardt award in 1972. Finally, quoting his beloved Goethe, he delights us by revealing that he has still a whole list of projects on which he is working.

### M. J. EZEKIEL: A FORGOTTEN SCULPTOR

Posthumous Publication of Memoirs

The autobiography of a forgotten Jewish sculptor, Moses Jacob Ezekiel (Richmond/Virginia 1844 - Italy 1917) was recently published with a critical introduction by the art historian Professor Dr. Joseph Gutmann (Wayne State University, Detroit) in co-operation with Stanley F. Chyet. Ezekiel is one of the few American-born Jews who spent the major part of his life in Europe. After having qualified at the American Military Academy and participated in the Civil War of the 'sixties he studied in Cincinnati and later at the Berlin Academy of Arts. He was the first foreigner who, in recognition of his relief work "Israel" was awarded the Rome Prize of the Michael Beer Endowment. This provided him with the opportunity of continuing his studies in Rome. He settled there for good, and his studio became a centre of the city's artistic life.

Most of Ezekiel's works are now in the United States. They include a marmor sculpture "Freedom of Religion", commissioned by B'nai B'rith for the centenary exhibition in Philadelphia (1876) and busts of Washington, Beethoven, Liszt, Shelley and Cardinal Hohenlohe.—(E.G.L.)

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\* Guido Kisch: *Der Lebensweg eines Rechtshistorikers. Erinnerungen.* Jan Thorbecke Verlag Sigmaringen 1975. 250 pp. 60 Abb. DM 56.

\*\* In UDIM, Zeitschrift der Rabbinerkonferenz in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Band V, Frankfurt 1974/75.



Gabriele Tergit

## EXIL IN DER TÜRKEI

Horst Widmann hat eine unfasende Dokumentation mit dem Titel "Exil und Bildungshilfe. Die deutschsprachige akademische Emigration in die Türkei nach 1933" (Lang, Bern und Frankfurt 1973) herausgebracht. Ein Drittel des Buches enthält Auszüge aus Reden, Briefen, Artikeln und Kurzbiographien aller Genannten. 250 Universitätslehrer, Sachverständige für Wirtschaft, Verwaltung, Sozialgesetzgebung und Künstler fanden adäquate Aufgaben in der Türkei.

Der Beginn dieses Gelehrtentransfers war dramatisch: Im April 1933 erschien eine Drei-Zeilen Notiz in der Neuen Zürcher Zeitung, dass ein Professor Philipp Schwartz/Frankfurt eine Beratungsstelle (Notgemeinschaft) für deutsche Wissenschaftler in Zürich eröffnet habe. Mit der Flut von SOS-Briefen kam eine schicksalsträchtige Postkarte aus Bern mit unleserlicher Unterschrift (bei Widmann faksimiliert), dass ein Professor Malche in Genf einen Lehrkörper für die neue Universität in Istanbul zusammenstelle. Schwartz schrieb sofort, Malche antwortete sofort, dass er schon ein Jahr in ganz Europa vergeblich nach Lehrern suche, um Atatürks Traum einer Verwestlichung der Türkei zu erfüllen, er habe niemals zu hoffen gewagt, Menschen eines solchen geistigen Kalibers zu finden, wie sie ihm "ces barbares" durch ihre Vertreibung boten. Malche und Schwartz fuhren nach Istanbul und verhandelten mit dem Erziehungsminister Rechid Galip, der dreissigmal fragte: "Können Sie uns einen Professor für . . . vorschlagen?" Und Schwartz konnte.

Drei der Ausgewählten, Alfred Kantorowicz, Pionier der Schulzahnspflege, Nationalökonom Gerhard Kessler, ein SPD Abgeordneter, und Friedrich Dessauer, Zentrumsabgeordneter und Begründer der Quantenbiologie und Röntgentherapie, ein "überzeugter Katholik jüdischer Abkunft", waren in Haft. Rechid Galip versicherte, dass Jeder, der die Berufung annimmt, unter türkischem Schutz stehen werde. "Die werden uns keine Schwierigkeiten bereiten. Wir wissen, wie mit ihnen fertig zu werden". Die geheimnisvollen Fähigkeiten alter Weltreiche sind ja erstaunlich. Tatsächlich wurden alle drei gleich entlassen. Am Schluss der Sitzung sagte Rechid Galip: "Es ist ein aussergewöhnlicher Tag. Als vor fast 500 Jahren Konstantinopel fiel, beschlossen die griechischen Gelehrten, das Land zu verlassen. Die Renaissance war das Ergebnis. Heute haben wir uns vorbereitet, von Europa eine Gegengabe zu empfangen. Wir erhoffen eine Bereicherung, ja Erneuerung unserer Nation". Die Verträge wurden bei Malche in Genf im Beisein des türkischen Botschafters unterzeichnet. So kamen im Oktober 1933 150 Menschen in Istanbul an.

Aber Schwierigkeiten entstanden, die Schwartz "lokalen Widerstand, ja Sabotage", nennt. Von 240 Professoren der alten Universität waren 157 entlassen worden. Sie nannten sich "Selbstmordklub türkischer Hochschullehrer". Dazu kam die Beeinflussung der türkischen Presse durch deutsche Nazi-Journalisten in Istanbul. Ein Minister sagte, dass man sich weder "vom Geschrei von Journalisten, die von den Nazis aufgehetzt wurden, noch von neidischen Fachkollegen

beirren lassen dürfe". Natürlich stand die Autorität Atatürks hinter der Umwälzung.

Viele Emigranten gingen später weiter, vor Kriegsbeginn meist nach U.S.A., nach 1945 zurück nach Deutschland, aus den verschiedensten Gründen und gemäss ihrem Charakter. Andere blieben sesshaft. Professor Siegfried Oberndörffer, ein Münchener Jude mit einer Münchener Jüdin verheiratet, Dozent an der Münchener Universität und Pathologe am Schwabinger Krankenhaus, nannte die Türkei sein zweites Vaterland und blieb bis er 1944 in Istanbul starb. Zu den grossen Aerzten, die blieben, gehörte der Internist Erich Frank/Breslau. Er hat Hunderte von Professoren, tausende von Studenten ausgebildet, erhielt eine Festschrift zum 70. Geburtstag, 1957 ein Staatsbegräbnis. Schüler, Assistenten, Patienten trugen seinen in die türkische Flagge gehüllten Sarg. Andererseits war er der erste nach 1945, als Nazis in die Türkei flohen, der mit dem Nazi Max Clara, der Versuche an Häftlingen angestellt hatte, Kontakt aufnahm.

## Gelehrte bereichern Universität

Der Pharmabotaniker Alfred Heilbronn fand drei armselige Räume und einen botanischen Garten mit 90 Pflanzen vor. Er zog mit seinen 1,000 Studenten in ein Hippodrom, legte einen botanischen Garten an und begann die Pflanzenwelt des Musag-Gebirges zu registrieren. Der Zoologe Kosswig, ein politischer Emigrant, richtete ein Meeresforschungsinstitut und ein Vogelschutzgebiet ein, forderte die Idee von Landschaftsschutzreservaten. Er kehrte 1955 nach Hamburg und 1970 wieder in die Türkei zurück, wo er noch heute lebt. Der Astronom Freundlich, Gründer des Einsteininstituts in Potsdam, richtete mit Wolfgang Gleissberg ein astronomisches Institut in Istanbul ein. Er baute, grosszügig von den Türken unterstützt, eine Sternwarte. Der türkische Philosoph Uelken schrieb: "Die Universitätsgründung 1933 kann zugleich als Beginn einer neuen Blütezeit der Philosophie in der Türkei gewertet werden".

Der Jurist Andreas B. Schwarz führte die europäischen, auf dem römischen Recht beruhenden Rechtsbegriffe ein, indem er die arabischen und persischen mehr in den Hintergrund drängte. Eines seiner Gesetzgebungswerke basierte auf dem Schweizer Zivilgesetzbuch. Der relativ junge Ernst Hirsch, der türkisch sprach, hatte massgeblichen Anteil an der Abfassung des türkischen Handelsgesetzbuches. Er kehrte 1952 nach Berlin zurück und wurde zweimal Rektor der Freien Universität. Fritz Neumark, der auch türkisch sprach, wurde Leiter eines neugegründeten finanzwissenschaftlichen Instituts und half bei der türkischen Steuerreform. Er wurde nach 1952 zweimal Rektor der Frankfurter Universität. Gerhard Kessler hat eine wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Bibliothek zusammengebracht, für die er selber 50,000 Kartothekkarten schrieb, und er gründete zusammen mit Widmann die erste türkische Gewerkschaft. Alfred Isaac von der Nürnberger Handelshochschule führte die Betriebswirtschaftslehre ein, verfasste betriebswirtschaftliche Werke auf türkisch und wurde Berater des Arbeitsministeriums für

Sozialversicherungsfragen. Obwohl er wegen seiner Bescheidenheit und Pflichterfüllung sehr beliebt war, kehrte er 1950 nach Nürnberg zurück.

Die Notgemeinschaft vermittelte nicht nur Emigranten als Dozenten für die Universität, sondern auch als Wirtschaftsspezialisten für die Ministerien, darunter war Fritz Baade, v.d. Porten, Hans Wilbrandt und Ernst Reuter.

An der bestehenden Technischen Hochschule wirkten die Architekten Bruno Taut, Martin Wagner, Clemenz Holzmeister und Gustav Oelsner, sowie der Bildhauer Rudolf Belling. Ein besonderer Fall ist der Stuttgarter Architekt Bonatz, der 1943-54 grosse Bauten in der Türkei durchführte. Er hatte sich zwar vor dem Krieg in einem Privatgespräch in der Schweiz gegen die Nazis geäussert, was in Deutschland bekannt wurde, aber in seiner 1955 erschienenen Autobiographie steht kein Wort gegen die Nazis. Er mied die Emigranten in der Türkei und schrieb: "Schon zu Beginn des Dritten Reichs war meine Meinung, der Emigrant setzt sich selbst ins Unrecht".

Die Universität in Ankara war bis 1946 im Aufbau begriffen, aber an den Krankenhäusern waren grosse Emigrantenärzte tätig, der Chirurg Melchior von Breslau, Albert Eckstein, der eine Säuglingsfürsorge einführte und die Säuglingssterblichkeit von 33% auf 12% herunterdrückte, der Hautarzt Marchionini, der 24,000 ambulante Patienten im Jahr hatte. Er hat eine Therapie für die subtropischen Hautkrankheiten gefunden. Nach 1950 wurde er zweimal Rektor der Universität München.

Neben allem andern wollte Atatürk in Ankara ein Konservatorium für europäische Musik. Furtwängler empfahl Hindemith, der tatsächlich ein Konservatorium aufbaute, den Musikpädagogen Eduard Zuckmayer, Bruder von Carl, holte, der noch heute in Ankara lebt, und Prätorius, der sein Amt als Generalmusikdirektor in Weimar niederlegte, nur weil ihm seine Musik für die Nazis zu schade war. Carl Ebert war während des ganzen Kriegs in Ankara, wo er moderne türkische Oper, Theater und Ballett schuf und begabte Türken auf allen diesen Gebieten ausbildete, bis er 1948 an die Universität von Southern California ging. Er seinerseits hat Alfred Braun, den bekannten ersten Berliner Rundfunkansager, aus dem KZ nach Ankara gebracht.

Aus dem Nichts gründete der Altphilologe Georg Rohde, der eine jüdische Frau hatte, eine Fakultät für Latein und Griechisch. Er sagte, er wählte den Weg von Ovid, Seneca und Cicero, die alle in die gleiche Gegend in die Verbannung gingen. Der Assyriologe, Mitarbeiter an den vorderasiatischen Museen in Berlin Hans G. Güterbock ging nach Ankara und 1949 an die Universität Chicago.

So wie Stockholm der Treffpunkt in der Emigration der deutschsprachigen Nachkriegspolitiker war (Kreisky, Brandt, Wehner), so wurde in der Türkei das Wirtschaftswunder vorbereitet. Es gab seit 1858 eine Beamtenhochschule, die eine Hochschule für politische Wissenschaft wurde. Hier arbeitete der Nationalökonom Rüstow, ein militanter Nazi-gegner, der ein riesiges Schriftwerk auf türkisch veröffentlichte, darunter den faszinierenden Titel: "Das Versagen des Wirtschaftsliberalismus als religionsgeschichtliches Problem". Der bedeutendste der Schüler des Jenenser Philosophen Eucken, die sich in der

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## Exil in der Tuerkei

Continued from page 7

Türkei zusammenfanden, war Röpke, der Theoretiker der Freien Marktwirtschaft, der Schöpfer des deutschen Reichtums. Er blieb nur vier Jahre in Ankara, ging 1937 nach Genf, wo er 1966 starb. Ludwig Erhard nannte sich seinen Schüler. In Ankara war auch Ernst Reuter, der Gründer der Wolgadeutschen Sowjetrepublik, in der er 12 Jahre gelebt hatte. 1948 wurde er Berlins grosser Bürgermeister und Sieger in der russischen Blockade. Er hat Rohde und Ernst Hirsch an die Freie Berliner Universität geholt.

Die offizielle deutsche Stellung zu diesem Gelehrtentransfer war sumpfig wie immer. Sauerbruch war der Arzt der türkischen Oberschicht. Im Sommer 1933 wurden ihm Lehrstühle in Istanbul und Ankara angeboten. Er versuchte zwischen den Emigranten und der offiziellen deutschen Vertretung (Herrn von Fabrizius) zu vermitteln. Tatsächlich wurden die Vertreter der Notgemeinschaft zu einem Sommerfest der deutschen Botschaft eingeladen, wo sogar auf Schwartz's Bitten keine Hakenkreuze gezeigt wurden. Es blieb natürlich bei diesem einen Mal.

Während die Istanbuler Professoren alle über die Notgemeinschaft berufen wurden, schalteten sich für Ankara die Nazis ein, als sie den Propagandawert deutsch/jüdischer Hochschullehrer in der Türkei erkannten und nannten die Tätigkeit der von ihnen zur Ermordung Bestimmten "Deutsche Bildungshilfe". Die Verwirrung zeigte sich, wenn jüdische Professoren ihre Kinder in die deutsche gleichgeschaltete Schule schickten. Widmann schreibt von den ideologischen Schwierigkeiten der Kinder, die sogar zur Spaltung der Familien führten.

Die türkisch sprechenden Kinder machten Karriere. Der Sohn Kurt des physikalischen Therapeuten August Laqueur vom Berliner Virchowkrankenhaus wurde in Ankara Presseattaché der deutschen Botschaft und ist seit 1968 Generalkonsul in Zagreb. Rüstows Sohn ist heute einer der wichtigsten U.S.A.-Experten für türkische Fragen.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

Judge Bernard Gillis, QC, who sits at the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey), has been elected Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn. He is only the third Jew to be so honoured, the other two were the late Lord Cohen of Walmer and Sir Louis Gluckstein. Judge Gillis has a long record of service to the Jewish community especially in the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies.

The Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, who has retired from his post as national director of the Jewish National Fund in Britain, will have a forest planted in his honour in Jerusalem. Dr Levy's 40 years of service to the Jewish community included four years in the middle East and later in Germany as Jewish chaplain to the Forces. He was the first rabbi to enter Belsen after its liberation and to tell Jews in this country about it.

### DIE ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE MUENCHEN

sucht einen Mann mittleren Alters, der Erfahrung in Verwaltungs- und jüdischen Dingen hat als

### GESCHAEFTSFUEHRER

Ausführliche Bewerbungen erbeten an den Praesidenten der I.K.G., Dr. Hans Lamm Reichenbachstr. 27, D8 Muenchen 5, West Germany.

Herbert Freedon (Jerusalem)

## THE ISRAELI ARABS - WHICH WAY?

Over 110,000 men and women have joined the Israeli home guard; they patrol the streets, are posted near public buildings, search visitors at theatres and cinemas and help generally to reinforce the work of the police and of the security forces, in their unceasing struggle against terrorist outrages.

The problem assumed a new dimension when the Hebrew University in Jerusalem decided to have the students' hostels on its campus guarded at night by rotating groups of students. Of the 500 Arab students in Jerusalem, 200 live in those hostels. When they were asked to share in guard duty, they refused. The Jewish students took a grim view of their refusal. They feel that their lot is more difficult than that of their Arab colleagues who are exempted from military service while they themselves lose three years of preparing for their career when serving with the army. Moreover, they are being called up to the reserves for at least 40 days each year. This time they put up a fight: they were not willing to be on night watch in order to safeguard the sound sleep of their Arab colleagues in the common dormitories.

For the Arab students the matter was not quite as simple—they did not want to be dragged into a conflict of conscience, namely into a potential situation where they might have to shoot at Arabs. "We are not called up for the army, and the reasons are obvious. The same reasons ought to be valid in regard to guard duty," said their spokesman.

The Jewish students did not share this view. "Between military service and this kind of civilian guard duty is a great difference. Should a bomb explode or a hand-grenade be thrown, all inmates of the hostel would be affected, also the Arabs. Can't we expect that they contribute to their own protection?"

The conflict came to a head when the University administration expelled nine of the Arab "rejectors" from the dormitories, and the matter was discussed in the Knesset.

However, it appeared that the episode was merely the tip of an iceberg and that the trend towards "Palästinisierung" of the Israeli Arabs has gone a long way. Among them are groups which have aspirations even for territorial changes within the "green border" of Israel. This holds true in the first place for the so-called "little triangle", a region about 20 kilometres east of Nathania which has a predominantly Arab population and is situated on the former, pre-1967, Israel border with Jordan. Although no one dares talk openly, there are certain tendencies to incorporate this district into a Palestinian State, if and when it came to be established on the West Bank.

Another sign of the estrangement of the Israeli Arabs from the Jewish State was the overwhelming victory of the "New Communists" in the Nazareth municipal elections. It is a noted fact that only a minority of those who voted for that party, are Communists. Most of the people cast their votes in protest against the Israel Establishment. With their four representatives in the Knesset, the "New Communists" are the only official party, or body for that matter, which takes openly a stand against the Jewish State in its present form and this is what 67 per cent of Nazareth's citizens gave expression to.

Social and economic advancement have not solved this problem. Through natural increase and family reunions, the Arab minority has risen from 130,000 in 1948 to 400,000. Upon the State's establishment, only 32 per cent of those of school age attended school; today the percentage is 92 (compared with 60 per cent in Jordan, 40 per cent in Egypt, Iraq and Libya, and only 15 per cent in Saudi Arabia and the Yemen). About 150,000 pupils attend schools, as opposed to 12,000 in 1948; the number of teachers has increased from 300 to some 6,000 and that of elementary schools from 41 to 300, within the 27-year period.

The introduction of modern methods of cultivation has raised the Arab farmer's income by 600 per cent. Whilst in 1948 the Arabs worked with four agricultural machines, they now operate with 1,700 agricultural machines. There are 51 industrial enterprises in the Arab sector, 2,400 workshops and 2,700 commercial firms which between them employ 10,900 persons. Of course, all these figures apply to the Israeli Arabs only and do not take into account the Arab population of the occupied territories. In Israel, there are at the disposal of the Arab citizens 70 health centres, 51 mobile clinics for Beduins and some 100 mother-and-child care clinics. Life expectancy has gone up to 70 years (51 in Egypt and Algeria, 52 in Iraq and 42 in the Sudan). The natural increase of the Israeli Arabs is 40 per thousand, compared with 30 in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. As against this, infant mortality rate is the lowest in the Arab world—37 per thousand births in Israel, 149 in Morocco, 116 in Egypt, 125 in Tunisia and 86 in Algeria.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## PROFESSOR VICTOR EHRENBERG

Victor Ehrenberg, as he had foreseen and wished, died soon after the loss of his wife, Eva (née Sommer), who was his companion in happy and stormy days, in work as well as in enjoyment of good company and of the world's beauty spots. For our group he symbolised the link between our present existence and the period when German Jewry was still a living organism in their old environment.

He represented the fourth generation of a family which produced leaders in the field of scholarship and education. In 1901, the ten-year-old boy moved with his parents from Hamburg to Cassel, where Franz Rosenzweig, his by five-years-older second cousin, took a serious interest in him and, to a certain degree, became an influence in his life. Ehrenberg never lost the feeling that Jewry had a claim on his loyalty and in his attitude towards the world he very early noticed a certain tension between the Jewish and the German legacy. But he could not follow his older cousin and friend on his way back to the Hebrew inheritance and the ritual forms of life.

His own choice was the humanistic tradition of classical and especially Hellenic studies, where political events and the creative world of literature can be seen together in their mutual interaction. Moreover, there he found a neutral ground that could be approached without the impulse of nationalistic aims. In his field of studies Ancient Judaism could be seen on the border, while, on the other hand, this epoch of civilisation was an important source of Germany's spiritual values.

Ehrenberg's decision proved its value when, in February, 1939, he was forced to leave his professorship of Ancient History at the German university of Prague by the threat of the Nazi take-over. He emigrated to England. He was not spared the difficulties of the transition, but there was no break in his intellectual

interests and activities demanded. A readership in Ancient History at Bedford College of London University was his final position. Yet his authority as a scholar became established throughout the world from North America to Greece; also the new Germany was glad to see him back on occasional visits and lecture courses.

Many people who were in contact with him during his life-time will continue to consult his writings, and nobody will forget the warm humanity and unconventional sincerity expressed in every communication received from him.

HANS LIEBESCHUETZ

## FRIEDRICH HOLLAENDER

The composer Friedrich Hollaender has died in Munich at the age of 79. In the 'twenties his songs for which he also wrote the texts, expressed the spirit of the age—and Marlene Dietrich's success stemmed from the perfect expression she was able to give to the work he created. He wrote text and music for the "Blue Angel", and Dietrich's famous songs, "Ich bin von Kopf bis Fuss auf Liebe eingestellt" ("Falling in Love again"), "Johnny, wenn Du Geburtstag hast" and "Ich bin die tolle Lola" have remained his most lasting artistic triumphs. He dominated the great age of the German film which is so often nostalgically revived in the National Film Theatre and other depositories of classical films.

Friedrich Hollaender was born in London. His father was the composer Victor Hollaender, and his uncles the author Felix and the musician Gustav Hollaender. He grew up in Berlin which he loved and where he had his first success with cabaret songs as a very young man. Until the end of 1932, he worked for the Ufa Film Company which dismissed him because of growing Nazi threats. He emigrated to America where in 23 years he wrote the music for 175 films. Ginger Rogers, Jane

Russell and other stars rose to success on the melodies he wrote for them. In 1955 he returned to Germany and soon created new songs for cabarets and films in Munich. Trude Kolman who had returned from England to open the "Kleine Freiheit" cabaret, provided him with a new platform for new triumphs. In 1965, he received the golden diploma of the German film industry for his post-war work, but his fame will always rest with the near-immortal melodies he created in pre-Hitler Berlin.

## STATE SECRETARY DR. W. STRAUSS

Dr. Walter Strauss died at the age of 75 at his home near Munich. He was the son of Geheimrat Professor Dr. Hermann Strauss (Heilbronn 1868-Theresienstadt 1944) who, for many years, was director of the medical department of the Berlin Jewish Hospital. Dr. Walter Strauss, who was a Protestant, was dismissed from his civil service job in 1933. From 1949-1963 he wielded great influence as Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Justice, especially in questions of compensation; from 1963-1970 he was a member of the Court of the E.E.C. in Luxemburg. As a member of the Parliamentary Council in 1948-49 he contributed significantly to the formulation of the Constitution (Grundgesetz) of the Federal Republic.

E.G.L.

## DR. K. K. JOACHIM

The British Medical Journal carries a special tribute to Dr. Kurt Karl Joachim who was in general practice in Luton for over 30 years and died at the age of 78. Born in Freiburg, he first worked in Offenbach, as chief radiologist at the Municipal Hospital and, after his dismissal in 1933, in private practice. He came to this country in 1939. "He was courteous in his manner but far from solemn, and his sense of humour and kindness earned him the respect of his colleagues and his patients", writes the Journal. Dr. Joachim was a member of the AJR. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his widow and his daughter.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**The Continental Subscription System.** The famous "Abonnements", i.e. regular theatre evenings for the family are still dominating the scene. The British public has not taken to this method which imposes a theatre-going obligation on the public, and serious duties on theatre managements to provide a varied and interesting fare. The German public remains faithful to the classics, to Shakespeare and French farce, it is not surprising to find currently Schiller's "Raeuber" in Hamburg's Ernst Deutsch Theatre, and "Don Carlos" in Luebeck, Krefeld and Muenster. British newspapers, used to more adventurous attempts in the dramatic field, have referred to the "German naïve classical tradition", which, however, seems to pay dividends.

**Vancouver:** Performing Lehars' "Merry Widow" may not be altogether remarkable, not even in British Columbia; however, the casting of the part of the widow is perhaps unexpected: it is—Joan Sutherland.

**Kenya:** Opera visits from European countries are infrequent, the Graz Opera House was

tumultuously received when they gave 7 performances of Mozart's "Figaro" in Nairobi.

**Vienna:** Egon Seefehlner, State Opera director *in spe*, has a striking plan: For a production of Richard Strauss' Ballet "Josefslegende" (not given for many years) he has invited Maria Callas to play Madame Potiphar. Some Viennese may remember that other great personality who created the role some 50 years ago: Maria Gutheil-Schoder.

**Birthdays:** Russian-born Bass Alexander Kipnis, one of the finest singers of his day, whom opera-fans heard in Hamburg, Berlin and Bayreuth, and later in Glyndbourne and at Covent Garden, celebrated his 85th birthday in the United States where he was a member of the Met-Ensemble from 1939-1946.

**Otto Preminger**, theatrical and film producer, assistant and disciple of Max Reinhardt, is 70.

**Obituary:** The death is announced of Friedrich Schreyvogel, 77, former vice-director of the Vienna Burgtheater, dramatist, novelist and critic. Schreyvogel, whose works included

plays such as "Habsburgerlegende" and "Die kluge Wienerin" was also author of a Grillparzer biography; it was his great-great uncle of the same name who was instrumental in having Grillparzer's works performed at the "Burg".

**A Life with Lisa Della Casa** is the title of a new book, written by her husband Dragan Debeljevic in which he proudly relates the success story of this Swiss soprano who has now retired. The author misses a point which any opera-lover could have reminded him of: the fact that Lisa Della Casa was the very best Strauss "Arabella" since that opera was first performed (and that includes Covent Garden).

S.B.

## S. FISCHER'S VILLA SOLD Museum of Publishing?

Dr Gottfried Bermann-Fischer who now lives in Italy has recently sold the Berlin-Grunewald house of his father-in-law the publisher Samuel Fischer who died in 1934. Before 1933 and after the war, the house was a meeting place for writers, politicians and artists. There have been protests from the public against the sale. It had been suggested to ask the West Berlin Government to acquire the house and open it to the public as a museum of publishing.

E.G.L.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

### Birthdays

**Johnson.** — Mr. Peter Johnson, father of the Hyphen, celebrated his fifteenth leap year birthday on February 29. With best wishes from his grateful Hyphenites.

**Kraus.**—Mrs. Johanna Kraus, of 2 Cleve Road, London, NW6 3RR, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 21. Admired and loved by all her friends.

**Singer.** — Mrs. Charlotte Singer (née Bodlaender), of Flat 6, St. Dennis House, Melville Road, Birmingham 16, will celebrate her 80th birthday on March 1.

### Deaths

**Boldes.** — Miss Martha Boldes passed away peacefully on February 13, 1976, at Leo Baeck House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2. Deeply missed by her relatives and friends.

**Broh.**—Mrs. Charlotte Broh (née Ahner), peacefully passed away in her 74th year on January 29, following a long illness. Mourned and missed by her husband, Richard Broh, 9 Palace Court, Palace Road, London, SW2 3ED, relatives and many friends.

**David.**—On January 2, 1976, after a long illness, Herta David, of Morris Feinmann House, 178 Palatine Road, Manchester, 20, widow of Morris David and sister-in-law of Hella Loeper. Deeply mourned by her relatives and a large circle of devoted friends.

**Diamant.**—Mrs. Jenny-Lotte Diamant (née Herrmann), formerly of Berlin, passed away after a long illness on February 4, 1976 in her 88th year. Deeply mourned by her son.

**Meyerstein.** — Mrs. Marie Luise Meyerstein (née Wolff), formerly Kassel, Germany, died peacefully at her home in Stanmore Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on February 15, after a long illness borne with great courage. Mourned and sadly missed by her relatives and many friends.

**Rosenthal.**—Mrs. Emma Rosenthal (née Rosenstiel), of 15 Minster Road, London, N.W.2, passed away on January 16. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

**Rychwalski.**—Mr. Horst Rychwalski passed away on February 6 at the age of 65, after a long illness, bravely born. Sadly missed by his loving wife, Ann, family and many friends.

## CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 15p for five words.

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## Personal

**CONTINENTAL LADY** interested in theatre, music, art, etc., would like to meet ladies and gentlemen of similar interests for companionship, age 50-60, preferably N.W.8. Box 556.

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## INFORMATION WANTED

**Hans Carl Ladewig: Max Lichtwitz.**—Would anybody who knew one or both of the above German lawyers or had professional dealings with them in Germany, please contact: Mrs. D. M. Liebmann, 27 Hurstwood Road, London, NW11 0AS. Tel: 01-455 7006.

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# ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

## 20th BIRTHDAY PARTY OF THE AJR CLUB

If ever there was a party which can be called a full success, it was the 20th Birthday Party of the AJR Club, held on February 1 at Hannah Karminski House. As the guests of the Club's chairman, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, about 180 members and friends of the Club were treated to coffee and cake, and both the Club room and the Hall in the lower ground floor were filled to capacity. Fortunately, the loud-speaker system which covers both floors simultaneously, but which had become a bit shaky in the course of the years, could be put in order at very short notice, and thus the speeches and recitals were "Upstairs Downstairs" performances. The high-point was the charming address in verse by the indomitably youthful Mrs. Jacoby. She recalled the first ten years, when the steadily growing number of members met in a room at Zion House, Eton Avenue, and the Club's tremendous expansion after the AJR had acquired the house at 9 Adamson Road. It was her suggestion to name this communal centre after the leading personality of the Jewish Women's Organisation in Germany, Hannah Karminski, who voluntarily stayed in Germany and suffered a martyr's death. The speakers at the Opening Ceremony on December 12, 1965, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. S. Dresel, included Hannah's first cousin, the late Sir Seymour Karminski, Mr. Samuel (now Lord) Fisher, at that time Mayor of Camden, Rabbi Salzberger, who gave the blessing to the House, and herself.

Turning to the present position of the Club, which now has 448 members, Mrs. Jacoby in her inimitable humorous way expressed her thanks to the numerous helpers.

The function was enhanced by recitals of the Youth Choir of the Belsize Square Synagogue, conducted by Johanna Metzger-Lichtenstern, accompanied by Paul Lichtenstern. The choice of the well-balanced programme was symbolic: it included works in English, Hebrew and German.

The greetings of the AJR Executive were conveyed, by Dr. F. E. Falk and Dr. W. Rosenstock and the grateful feelings of the members became evident in the brief speeches some of them contributed to the function. The climax was Mrs. Jacoby's cutting of the birthday cake with its 20 candles. Supplemented by several further cakes of equal size, every

member of the large family received his or her proper share.

It was a memorable event, not only in the history of the Club, but of the AJR at large which, by providing the facilities for running the Club, has given a Home from Home to many in our midst.

## MEMORIAL MEETING FOR THE MARTYRS An Important Event

This year's meeting in memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Martyrs will be held on Sunday, April 25, at 3 p.m., in the New London Theatre, Parker Street, Drury Lane, W.C.2. The details about the speakers will be announced in the next issue. There is, however, a special reason, for which we announce the function in advance. The AJR has been associated with the annual Memorial Meetings throughout the years. It is a joint effort of practically all Jewish organisations. However, whilst until now, the AJR was one of the numerous supporting organisations, it has now accepted the invitation to join the four major organisations, among them the Board of Deputies, which, as sponsors, carry the main responsibility for the preparation and the ultimate success of the function. It was repeatedly mentioned in these columns that, whilst the Memorial Meetings were always well attended by Jews born in this country, those who themselves escaped the Holocaust or lost their nearest ones in it were with the possible exception of the Jews from Poland only comparatively sparsely represented. We urgently appeal to our members to keep the date free for the function and expect that a greater number than in the past will join their fellow Jews in this hour of remembrance.

## ZION HOUSE LECTURES

We should like to draw our readers' attention to the announcement on page 8 carrying details about the last four lectures of the course.

## GOLDA MEIR MUSICAL

Composer Lionel Bart is about to finish a big new musical the subject of which is Golda Meir. He announced, however, that the star will not be Golda, but her sister Sheyna who had a great influence on Golda's career.

## JEWISH BOOK WEEK

March 8-11

This year's Jewish Book Week will be held from March 8 to 11 at Hillel House 1/2 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the opening lecture on Monday, March 8, when Dr. V. D. Lipman will speak about "Israel Zangwill and his Anglo-Jewry". On Wednesday, Mr. Chaim Raphael, CBE, will give an address on "American Jewish Life and Letters. Thoughts for the Bicentenary", and on Thursday, the well-known historian, Martin Gilbert, will speak about "Zionist Ideals in Literature and Reality". All functions commence at 8 p.m. and, as in previous years, a wide selection of newly published books will be exhibited in the Hall.

## ANNIVERSARY OF VICKY'S DEATH

Last month, on February 23, ten years have passed since Vicky (Victor Weisz) died under tragic circumstances. Born in Germany in 1913 of Hungarian parentage, he came to this country as a Jewish refugee in 1935. After a difficult initial period, he became one of the leading cartoonists in his country of adoption. One of the reasons for his success was that, as he used to explain, he had made a point after his arrival to study English works of literature and English adages and to get acquainted with the English mentality and sense of humour. This enabled him to use as captions for his cartoons quotations from Shakespeare and Alice in Wonderland and other sayings which are part and parcel of the education of the indigenous. As a political cartoonist, he worked with the "News Chronicle", the "Daily Mirror", the "New Statesman" and, during his last years for the "Evening Standard". It must have been a tremendous strain for him to comment day after day at very short notice on latest political events.

So far, no cartoonist of his standing has come to the fore after his death. He had many friends among his fellow refugees. At the same time there are very few in our midst who have succeeded to the same extent in establishing a reputation for themselves in this country. His memory was honoured in an almost unique way by a special concert in the Festival Hall, which was attended by the Prime Minister and the leaders of the two opposition parties and at which tribute was paid to him in an address by Michael Foot.

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# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## 80th BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR HERBERT WEICHMANN

On February 23, Professor Herbert Weichmann celebrated his 80th birthday in Hamburg. He can look back to a long and distinguished career. Born at Landsberg/Upper Silesia as son of a doctor, he studied law, and after a few years as a judge in Breslau, occupied high office in the Prussian Government and became personal assistant to Otto Braun, the Prime Minister. As a Jew and a member of the Social-Democratic Party, he was at once purged by the Nazi Government and spent seven years in France as a free-lance journalist. In 1940 he escaped to the United States, studied economics and became a chartered accountant. After the war, in 1948, his old friend Max Brauer, at the time Lord Mayor of Hamburg, invited him to return and offered him the position of president of the Hamburg municipal audit office. He accepted and subsequently became a Senator in the Hamburg Government and member of the Federal Council (Bundesrat) in Bonn. From 1968-69 he was president of the Bundesrat and in this capacity deputy of the Federal president—the second man in the Government. At Hamburg University he has held the chair for public accountancy and economics since 1956. Between 1965 and 1971 he was Lord Mayor of Hamburg and president of the Hamburg Senate.

Since his retirement the dynamic politician has become an Elder Statesman and a Freeman of Hamburg. He is also a board member of many scholarly institutions including the London Wiener Library.

E. G. LOWENTHAL

## "EULENSPIEGEL" WERNER FINCK

Werner Finck, the political cabaretist and author, was awarded the "Eulenspiegel-Bruder-Wuerden" of the "Freundeskreis Till Eulenspiegel" in Schoepfenstedt near Braunschweig; one of its former members included the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Finck's latest book, "Zwischendurch — Sie werden lachen, mir ist es ernst", by its very title indicates the task to be fulfilled by the political cabaret in a free society. It will be remembered that under the Nazis, Werner Finck did not shirk from making remarks in a witty way which in fact were meant extremely seriously. As one of the few courageous people in those years, his life was often in danger and he also had to spend some time in the Concentration Camp. Now 73 years old, he has remained as indomitable as he always was.

E.G.L.

## BENSHEIMER VERLAG, MANNHEIM

### Material Required

We have been asked, whether any of our readers could supply information about the Julius Bensheimer Verlag, which was founded in the 19th century in Mannheim and which from 1920 onwards was regarded as one of the most important publishing firms in the field of jurisprudence; it also published the "Neue Badische Landeszeitung". The enquirer, who does research work on the history of the firm, is particularly interested in getting in touch with members of Bensheimer and Guetermann families, who owned the firm. Any information should be sent to: Assessor Dr. Georg Leistner, Institut fuer Europaeisches Recht der Universitaet des Saarlandes, Saarbruecken, West Germany.

## Letter to the Editor

### TEACHER COURSES OF LANDESVERBAND

Sir,—With reference to Dr. Lowenthal's article on the Prussian Landesverband (AJR Information, January 1976) I should like to mention one of its important activities during the early years of the Nazi régime. As Jewish pupils had to leave the State schools in ever-increasing numbers it fell to the existing Jewish schools—and a few new ones—to assume responsibility for their education. The need for additional Staff could be met by the appointment of Jewish teachers who had been dismissed from the State schools, but it was essential to provide these teachers with a grounding—or, at least, a refresher course—in Jewish subjects to fit them for their new tasks.

For this purpose the Landesverband organised, in Berlin, a course (Religionslehrerkursus) under the direction of Rabbi Dr. Galliner which covered such subjects as Hebrew, Jewish History, and the teachings of Judaism. The lecturers included men who did not survive the Nazi régime, e.g. Rabbi Dr. Julius Lewkowitz and Dr. Meir Spanier. Among the surviving lecturers was Dr. Fritz Bamberger, who is now Vice-President of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York.

The course concluded with an examination, and the candidates were then given a certificate which qualified them as teachers of Jewish religion.

In addition the Landesverband published a series of bulletins with guidelines for the teaching of Jewish subjects.

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